105. There is not much to remark under this head. In the Naushahro, Hyderabad and Jerruck Divisions, no fellings were undertaken departmentally, while in Sukkur the 151 logs and 3,706 poles are the result of so much of the erosion operations as were carried on by Forest subordinates. In Jerruck, the 2 logs are the balance of timber cut and disposed of in 1895-96, but through an oversight they were not brought on to stock returns of that year.

Supply of timber to public departments.

106. The supply of timber, as also of other forest produce, to Government Departments and public bodies by direct Departmental agency having practically ceased, the usual statement of the yearly deliveries to them has been omitted.

(*b*) *Firewood and Charcoal.*

Outturn of firewood.

107. The following statement gives the yield of firewood and charcoal for two years:—

Year.	Firewood.	Loco. fuel.	Charcoal.
	Maunds.	C. ft.	Maunds.
1895-96 ...	80,362	1,979,103	18,892
1896-97 ...	1,178	3,125	...
Decrease ...	79,184	1,975,978	18,892

108. A marked difference is noticeable in the above figures, which has solely resulted from the introduction of the coupe contract system of working the forests, under which contractors are at liberty to have direct dealings with all the Departments of Government, etc., requiring fuel for their consumption, Departmental fellings being only resorted to when failing other arrangements, material has to be cut on eroding banks, canal banks, *bunds* or along boundary paths and compartment lines, or when a special indent from a public department has to be complied with.

(*c*) *Other Minor produce.*

Minor products.

109. The collection and removal of minor forest products are works in which the Department has no direct hand, as the most valuable of them are yearly farmed out.

II.—Removal of Produce by purchasers.

(*a*) *Timber.*

Comparative statement of yield in timber.

110. The quantity of timber cut and removed from the forests by purchasers, other than coupe contractors, during two years is compared below:—

Division.	Timber.		Posts.		Rafters.		Sleepers.		Planks.	
	1895-96.	1896-97.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1895-96.	1896-97.
	C. ft.	C. ft.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Sukkur	1,197	7,355	568	2,390	20,403	15,567	...	...	...	...
Naushahro	2,982	10,838	282	...	23,469	12,939	...	...	...	...
Hyderabad	2,460	5,038	4,825	4,165	70,879	78,315	...	53	1	...
Jerruck	6,399	198	256	...	3,500	4,170	6,815	389	232	...
Total ..	13,038	23,429	5,931	6,555	118,251	110,991	6,815	442	233	...

111. The increase under "Timber" and "Posts" is accounted for by the sale of wood obtained from erosion fellings, which were heretofore carried on by Departmental agency, while under other heads there is a falling off, brought about by the change in the agency of exploitation, as under the coupe system the requirements of villagers along with those of other people were met by the coupe contractors who had purchased the standing crop in the area situated within their reach in the different localities. To obviate inconvenience or hardship that might be felt by the inhabitants of villages in the neighbourhood of forests by the coupe contractors refusing to comply with their requisitions for domestic purposes, or demanding higher rates from them, a clause has been inserted in the coupe agreement which renders it obligatory on contractors to supply them with the required material at rates not in excess of those hitherto charged by the Forest Department.